



January – 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Railways has decided to replace the conventional coaches with modern LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) design coaches in all long-distance trains to provide crashworthiness features in these coaches.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development constituted a task force, headed by psychiatrist Dr. Jitendra Nagpal, to look into the circumstances leading to the suicidal deaths of students residing in the hostels of JNV (Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas).
- ❖ Kevin Sweeney, the chief of staff of the US Department of Defence, resigned from his position recently.
- ❖ The Secunderabad Railway Station, in Hyderabad, became the first railway station of South-Central Railway (SCR) zone to hoist a huge tricolour on a 100-foot tall pole. This was done according to the Railway Board's order.

NATIONAL

National Health Agency restructured as National Health Authority.

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the restructuring of existing National Health Agency as National Health Authority.
- ❖ The move is to effectively implement Pradhan Mantri – Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).
- ❖ The National Health Authority would be empowered with full autonomy, accountability.

New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill

- ❖ The Lok Sabha has recently passed the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill.
- ❖ It aims to set up a revamped International Arbitration Centre at New Delhi with an aim to make India the hub of arbitration.
- ❖ The bill seeks to
 - establish an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalised arbitration and



- for acquisition and transfer of undertakings of the International Centre of Alternative Disputes Resolution (ICADR).
- ❖ The New Delhi International Arbitration Centre is being set up as per the recommendation of the Justice B.N. Sri Krishna committee.
- ❖ The chief justice of India is the ex-officio chairperson of the ICADR.

National Entrepreneurship Awards 2018

- ❖ The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) presented the National Entrepreneurship Awards 2018 at a ceremony held in New Delhi.
- ❖ A total of 33 winners – 30 Young Entrepreneurs and 3 Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Builders were awarded.
- ❖ Its objective is to recognize and honour outstanding young first-generation entrepreneurs and contributors of entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- ❖ The award was instituted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in 2016.

INTERNATIONAL

Iran approves anti-money laundering bill

- ❖ The Iranian council known as the Expediency Council approved an anti-money laundering bill to ease trade.
- ❖ This bill will be in line with the standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- ❖ It is considered a major step towards reforms that would bring Iran into line with global norms and could facilitate foreign trade in the face of U.S sanctions.
- ❖ The FATF is an inter-governmental organisation that underpins the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.
- ❖ Iran is alone with North Korea on the FATF's blacklist.



ECONOMY

Vijay Mallya declared as Fugitive Economic Offender

- ❖ The Prevention of Money Laundering (PMLA) court in Mumbai has declared Vijay Mallya as a Fugitive Economic Offender.
- ❖ Vijay Mallya is the first businessman to be charged under the new fugitive economic offender's act 2018.
- ❖ The person so declared can challenge the proclamation in the High Court within 30 days of such declaration according to the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.

ENVIRONMENT

Mandal Dam Project

- ❖ The Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone for the Mandal Dam Project on the North Koel River.
- ❖ The construction of the Mandal Dam began in 1972 and continued till 1993.



- ❖ Later it was stalled over the concerns raised by the Bihar Forest Department.
- ❖ The project threatens to submerge the portions of the Palamau Tiger Reserve and Betla National Park.
- ❖ The North Koel River rises on the Ranchi Plateau in Jharkhand.



- ❖ It is a tributary of River Sone that joins the river Ganga in Bihar.

Cyclone Pabuk

- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has stated that cyclone Pabuk weakened into deep-depression and made landfall over the Bay Islands such as Port Blair.



- ❖ Pabuk, a once in the three-decades weather system, originated over the Gulf of Thailand and its neighbourhood.

STATES

CBIP award for Polavaram project

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh was conferred with CBIP's (Central Board of Irrigation & Power) "Best Implementation of Water Resources Project".
- ❖ It has been conferred for the better planning, implementation, monitoring and speedy execution of Polavaram multipurpose project on the Godavari River.



Atal Solar Krushi Pump Yojana

- ❖ The government of Maharashtra introduced the Atal Solar Krushi Pump Yojana to reduce losses due to non-payment of electricity bills and also promote solar energy.
- ❖ The features of the Atal Solar Krishi Pump Yojana are,
 - The government would provide solar pumps at subsidised rates for the farmers.
- ❖ The government has decided to give two LED bulbs, a DC fan and a mobile charging socket as freebies to farmers enrolling under the scheme.

SPORTS NEWS

Hopman Cup

- ❖ The Hopman Cup, which is an annual international eight-team indoor hard-court tennis tournament, was held in Perth, Western Australia.
- ❖ This year Switzerland's Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic secured victory over Germany's Angelique Kerber and Alexander Zverev to win the Hopman Cup for the 2nd year in a row.



- ❖ It was Switzerland's fourth title overall, behind only the United States with six.
- ❖ This year's tournament is the 31st edition of the Hopman Cup and potentially be the final edition of the tournament as it will be replaced by an ATP tournament from next year.
- ❖ Twenty-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer is the first player to win three Hopman Cups.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lifetime achievement award to Dinu Randive

- ❖ The Veteran journalist Dinu Randive was conferred with the lifetime achievement award for his lifelong contributions in journalism, who started his journalistic career in 1956.
- ❖ The award was given by the Mantralaya and Vidhimandal Vartahar Sangh which is an association of journalists covering Maharashtra legislature and secretariat.
